

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186918

ASUNCION FOR RSO; PANAMA FOR RSS, OIC/RTC FROM A/SY/OPS/T

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: ARMOR FOR COM VEHICLE

REF: ASUNCION 2433

1. 1977 OLDS;OBILE REGENCY, SILVER, ARMORED WITH THREE SIXTEENTHS INCH THICK ALUMINUM IN ALL DOORS, BEHIND REAR SEAT AND SAIL PANELS. USUAL ARMORING IN BACK OF FRONT SEATS NOT POSSIBLE DUE TO BUCKET SEAT DESIGN. ALUMINUM ARMOR SYSTEM WILL PROVIDE MULTIPLE HIT PROTECTION AGAINST 9MM SUBMACHINE GUN AND LESSER HAND GUN THREATS. CARBINE, SHOTGUN AND OTHER RIFLE FIRE WOULD PENETRATE THIS SYSTEM.

2. POST ASSUMPTION PERTAINING TO ARMORED TRANSPARENCIES CORRECT. SY/OPS/T CAN ARRANGE TO HAVE ONE HALF INCH LEXAN
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SYSTEM INSTALLED TO PROVIDE LIMITED PROTECTION. LEXAN WHEN BRACKETED BEHIND AUTOMOBILE TEMPERED GLASS, SUCH AS SIDE AND REAR WINDOW AREAS, WILL PROVIDE SINGLE HIT 9MM AMMUNITION DEFEAT CAPABILITY. NEW OPTICALLY IMPROVED LAMINATED LEXAN MATERIALS FOR PLACEMENT IN WINDSHIELD AREA ARE CURRENTLY BACKORDERED; DELIVERY TO SY GARAGE FACILITY NOT EXPECTED UNTIL LATE SUMMER. SUCH MATERIAL PROVIDES

EXCELLENT OPTICAL QUALITY FOR SAFE OPERATION OF THE VEHICLE WHILE ALSO PROVIDING MULTIPLE 9MM HIT CAPABILITY WHEN

INSTALLED BEHIND LAMINATED SAFETY GLASS SUCH AS AUTOMOBILE WINDSHIELD. THERE IS NO ADVANTAGE IN PLACING NEW MATERIAL IN ALL WINDOWS AS DEFEAT CAPABILITY IS BASED ON PROJECTILE FIRST STRIKING GLASS IMPACT SURFACE. LAMINATED SAFETY GLASS LARGELY REMAINS IN PLACE AFTER INITIAL IMPACT WHILE TEMPERED GLASS DICES INTO SMALL PIECES AND FALLS OUT. AS WITH ALUMINUM ARMOR SYSTEM, RIFLE FIRE WILL PENETRATE TRANSPARENT SYSTEM.

3. LEXAN PRODUCTS ARE SOFT POLYCARBONATE MATERIALS WITH AN ABRASION RESISTANT COATING WHICH IS STILL EASILY SCRATCHED. PLACEMENT OF THESE FLAT MATERIALS BEHIND CURVED AUTO GLASS WILL NECESSITATE THEIR PERIODIC REMOVAL FOR CLEANING PURPOSES BETWEEN THE TWO SURFACES TO REMOVE LINT, DUST, CONDENSATION RESIDUE, AND OTHER FOREIGN MATTER WHICH MAY ACCUMULATE IN THIS AREA. CLEANING IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY USING NON ABRASIVE CLEANERS OR RUBBING ALCOHOL AND CLEAN, LINT-FREE CLOTHS.

4. SIDE WINDOW OPERATION WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE AS LEXAN MATERIALS ARE EASILY DISLODGED AND PROTECTION NEGATED WHEN WINDOWS ARE OPENED.

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5. SLIGHT DISTORTION WILL BE NOTICED DUE TO ADDITION OF FLAT TRANSPARENCIES BEHIND CURVED ORIGINAL GLASS. SOME NIGHT TIME HALATIONS MAY ALSO BE NOTICEABLE IN THAT A SINGLE SET OF LIGHTS APPEAR TO BE MULTIPLIED OR STACKED ONE ON TOP OF ANOTHER. AS DISTANCE BETWEEN VEHICLES DECREASES, NUMBER OF STACKED UP LIGHTS ALSO DECREASE. THIS MAINLY APPLIES TO VEHICLES APPROACHING FROM REAR OR SIDE.

6. PLEASE ADVISE IF LEXAN TRANSPARENT SYSTEM IS ACCEPTABLE FOR INSTALLATION IN NEW COM VEHICLE. VANCE

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